

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of September 6, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-20, under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as allegedly being indefinite; rejected claims 1-2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-17, and 20, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as allegedly being anticipated by Fujiwara '338 (U.S. Pat. No. 6,618,338); rejected claims 8 and 18, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujiwara '338; and rejected claims 8 and 18, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly being unpatentable over Fujiwara '338.

The Examiner also objected to the Title, as allegedly not being descriptive, and the Specification, as allegedly containing informalities. The Examiner also indicated that dependent claims 3, 9, 13, and 19 would be allowed if rewritten in proper independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the Title and Specification, has amended claims 1, 4-11, and 14-20, as suggested by the Examiner, and has cancelled claims 2-3, without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the immediate withdrawal of the objections to the Title and Specification, and the immediate withdrawal of the §112, ¶2 rejections of claims 1-20, is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant submits that the claim changes also include incorporating the features of claims 3 and 13 and intervening claims into independent claims 1 and 11, respectively. Also, claims 9 and 19 have been rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, for the reasons identified by the Examiner, independent claims 1, 9, 11, and 13 are allowable and render the prior art rejections moot.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate passage to issue of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number **03-3975**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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